

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Decent coverage of important local and regional events and issues is being displaced by "magazine show" featurettes designed more for entertainment than information. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They are resorting to blatantly sensationalistic one-sided propaganda and presenting it as news documentary. They will not be presenting any programming that takes the content of such drivel to task for fact and accuracy. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.